

Fishing was as good during 2010 as the best salmon years

The Chinook Fishery peaked in **2002**

The **2010** Roger City catch rate was very diverse but as
good as **2002**

It was as easy to catch a fish in **2010** as in **2002**

Steelhead

Lake Trout

Chinook

Walleye

Coho

Atlantic Salmon

Brown Trout

Fishing in 2010 was very enjoyable

- 1) Fish were usually caught in relatively shallow water
generally less than 80 feet deep
- 2) All species of fish were often caught near the surface

Why did the old fishery change?

Quagga and Zebra Mussels

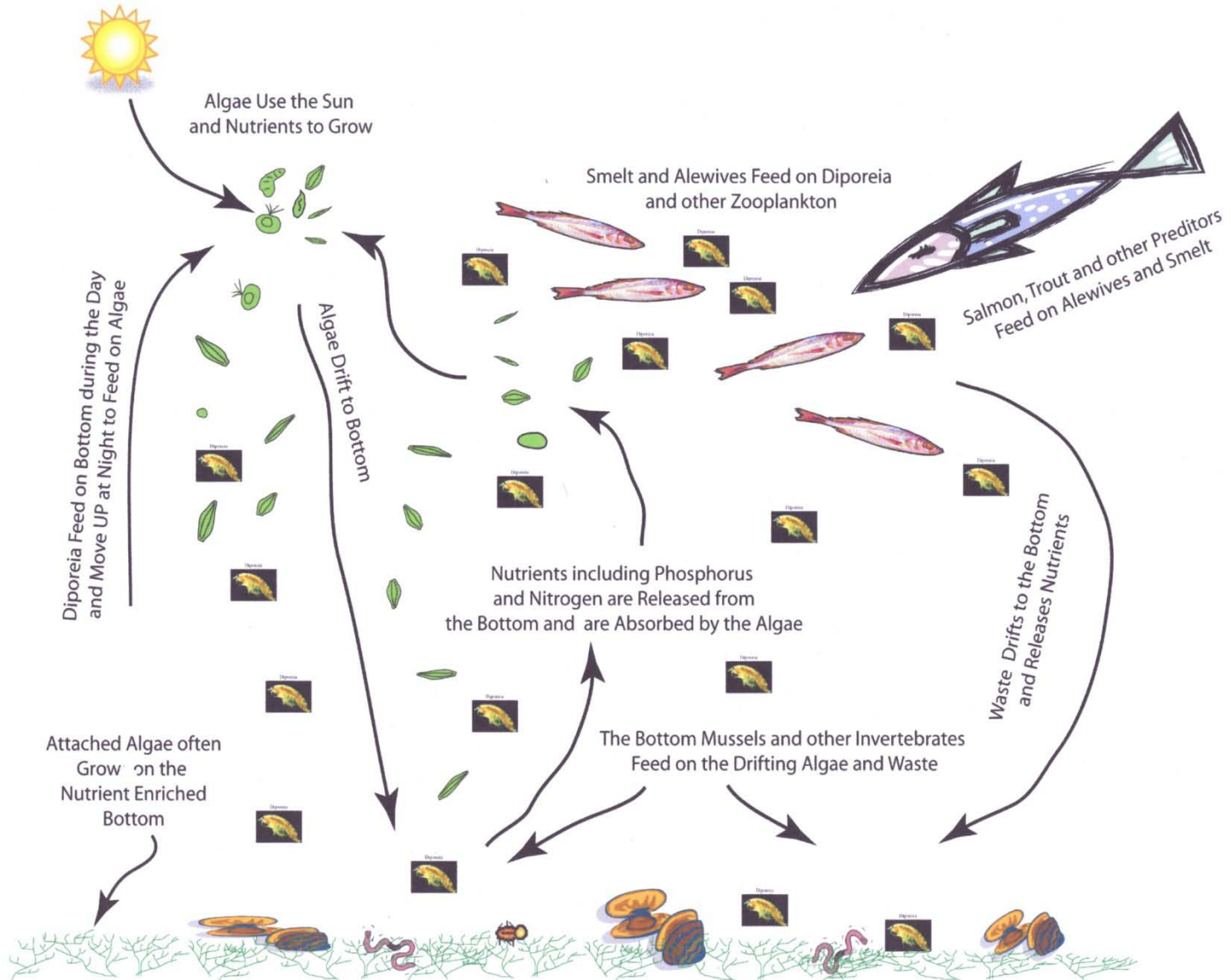
caused the

Midwater baitfish

Alewife and Smelt to

Collapse in 2003

Food Web



After the food web changed the
food was concentrated on the

Surface = Terrestrial Insects

Midwater = Sparse Choices

Bottom = Goby and Insects

The fish are **adapting**

Generalists feeders are doing very well

Feed from the surface to the bottom

Steelhead

Lake Trout

Coho

Atlantic Salmon

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The Chinook are slowly adapting in the North and are rare in the South

- 1) Chinook are stubborn and want to feed in the midwater but the alewife are rare and smelt are recovering slowly
 - 2) 80 to 90% of Chinook are wild
- 3) It is estimated that nearly all Chinook are eaten shortly after stocking

Several DNR experimental programs were started after the food web changed to improve Fishing in Lake Huron

Steelhead Pen Experiments

Stocking Large Size Brown Trout

Expanding the Atlantic Salmon Program

Reestablishing Cisco (Lake Herring)

**Atlantic Salmon survive 5 times better than the other top species
(lake trout and steelhead)**

and over 70 times better than Chinook

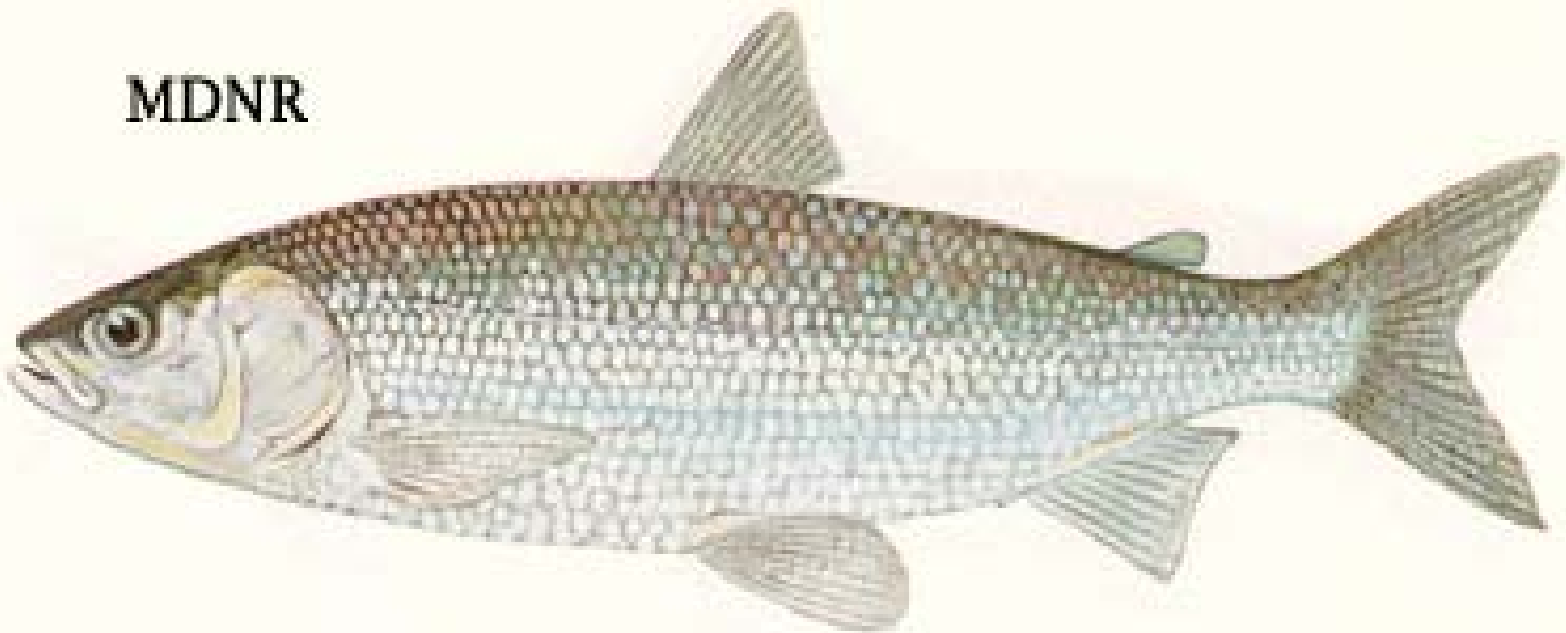
25,000 Atlantic Salmon Stocked and 1,360 Harvested Lake Wide
1,470,000 Chinook Stocked 1,100 Hatchery Fish Harvested



Cisco (Lake Herring)

Currently, the third most common recreational species caught in Lake Huron behind yellow perch and walleye

MDNR



Cisco (Lake Herring)

- 1) Great recreational fish
- 2) Historically was the most common baitfish
in the Lake
- 3) Might replace alewife as a midwater
baitfish
- 4) It is a native species

The Collapse of Alewife was not all bad

Alewife greatly suppressed reproduction of native species and their collapse resulted in several successes:

- 1) Lake Trout are reproducing in large numbers and since 2003 after the alewife crashed over 50% of lake trout are wild
- 2) Walleye have recovered to historic highs and all fish are wild
- 3) Yellow perch are having record hatches
- 4) There is a window of opportunity to expand Cisco throughout Lake Huron